

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4363

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic 612 North Howard Street

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 612 N. Howard Street not for publication  
city, town Baltimore vicinity of congressional district Seventh  
state Maryland county Baltimore

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Jessica and Prithvi Ratra  
street & number 1524 W. Pratt Street #3A telephone no.:  
city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21223

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse SEB2411  
street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 folio 52  
city, town Baltimore state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title  
date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. B-4363

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☒

deteriorated  
ruins  
unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This three-bay, three-story, shed-roof building faces east on N. Howard Street. The brick building has been substantially remodelled and is presently covered with a veneer of formstone; the first and top of the third stories have a coursed field stone pattern and the second story has a brick-like pattern. Based on form and massing, the building appears to date to the mid-nineteenth century. The street frontage is 26'4" with a depth of 90'.

The first story four bays: one window in the south bay and the rest are doors. The northern-most door opens into a stair hall that leads to the upper stories. The second and third stories have openings for three windows. The second-story, formstone lintels suggest an original dentil backband with fillet of circa 1850 date; the third-story lintels follow a keystone and splayed jack arch pattern. The red-painted, wooden cornice is badly decaying. It has a slightly projecting profile with a dentil course below. The roof has a shallow gabled form.

The north wall is blank.

The south wall has a one-story inlet alley that runs between this and the southern partywall neighbor. A door in the south wall links the alley to the interior of the building. A chimney stack rises from the west side of the south wall.

The building is presently being gutted and renovated.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. B-4363

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_ unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The architectural design of this three-story, three-bay building is probably an example of a circa 1860 two-part commercial block. The first story would have been used for sales or display area and the upper stories could have been used as offices or as residential quarters. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes that "the gradual abandonment of the shop-house as the dominant form of commercial architecture was due to the ever-increasing demands for trade and professional services along with a corresponding increase in land values, all of which fostered the design of buildings used entirely for commercial purposes."<sup>1</sup> This building could have been used for either residential or commercial use on the upper stories. The multiple entrances indicate that the building was intended to house more than one tenant and that the segregation of the street-level commercial shop and upper stories was desirable. The building type attests to the mixed commercial and residential character of the neighborhood at the mid-century mark.

The building was possibly built as a speculative or rental property. In addition to the provision of separate entrances for separate tenants, the architectural details suggest an inexpensive building whose owner chose not to invest in costly facade details. The facade is trimmed with simple lintels and a relatively simple cornice with shallow brackets, in keeping with spare, commercial style architecture of mid-century style.

This three-story building is part of a mixed neighborhood today; other nineteenth-century structures include three-story buildings with shop-house characteristics and commercial blocks, and the twentieth-century buildings are both four- and two-story Art Deco commercial structures. Thus the 600 block of North Howard Street is a mixture of various commercial styles of architecture and reflect continued vitality through until World War Two.

The formstone veneer is one of hundreds of examples of Baltimore urban remodellings circa 1960, although it is rarely found in the Howard Street district.

<sup>1</sup> Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street, pp. 24, 29.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4363

Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987).

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Shaw, Architectural Historianorganization CHAP, Room 1037date December 19, 1991street & number 417 E. Fayette Streettelephone 301-396-4866city or town Baltimorestate MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
301-514-7600

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA**HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:  
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870  
Modern Period, 1930-present, alterations

Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture  
Economics

Resource Type:  
Building

Historic Environment:  
Urban

Historic Function and Use:

Commercial

Known Design Source:  
None

## REVISIONS

LOT 29 LOT NO CHANGED F LOT 30 DIV PER DEED C.S.H. 86 194 139  
 LOT 21/22 CHANGED F LOT 25 C.S.H. 86 304

521

LINDEN AVE

ST.

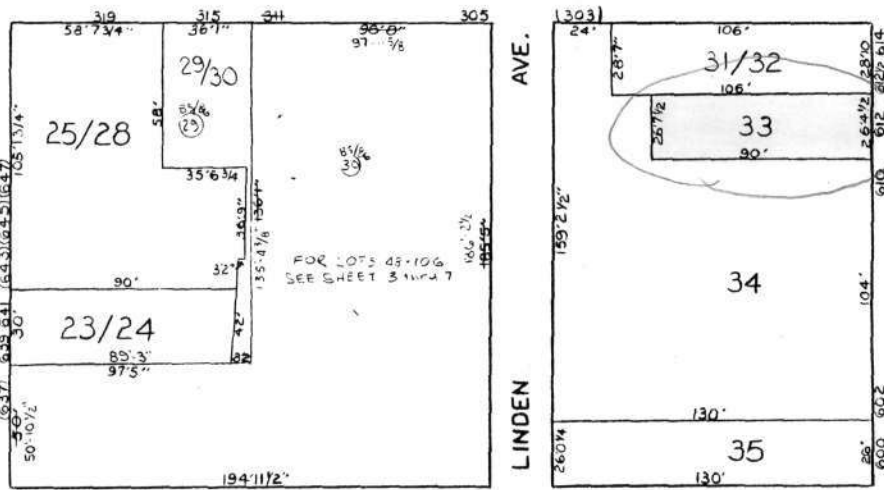
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N. EUTAW



DRUID HILL

AVE.

W. CENTRE

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SEE SHEET No. 1

ST.

N. HOWARD

531

SHEETS IN SET 7  
 SHEET No. 2

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

WARD 11 SECTION 10  
 BLOCK 530

SCALE 1"=50'

DATE NOV. 1966

## NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED  
 FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER  
 IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER  
 SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

D BY P.W.

RED BY P.W.





B-4363  
612 N. Howard St.  
Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

East elevation, facade, plus flanking  
buildings

1/1